

[28th August 1926]

A.—(a) G.O. No. 917, Public, dated 16th September 1902, contains the orders about Government servants attending offices on Sundays and holidays, and is placed^a on the table.

(b) The Government have no reason to suppose that clerks are compelled by overwork to attend office on such days.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“My enquiry is whether the hon. Member is aware that clerks attend office on Sundays and holidays. On a day on which I happened to go here, I found a number of clerks working including the hon. the Revenue Member.”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“There is nothing in the answer to show that they do not attend. The question was whether they were compelled by over work to attend.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“I want to know whether they will attend, if they are not overworked.”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“Certainly, they might.”

Reversions and reductions in the Secretariat.

* 2411 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether there has been any abnormal number of reversions and reductions in any department of the Secretariat, and if so, the reasons therefor?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Industries.

Representation from the Kanara Indian Christian Civil League.

2412 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether Government have received a representation from the Kanara Indian Christian Civil League as to aid to Industries, training of apprentices, coconut pest, etc., and what action has been taken on it?

A.—A representation from the League has been received and it will receive due consideration.

Local Boards.

Observance of holidays in aided schools.

2413 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer to my question No. 1326 given on 3rd December 1924, as to the observance of holidays in aided schools (including local board schools)—

(a) whether it is a fact that all or several local board schools under the control of the Ponnani Taluk Board were kept open on Good Friday in April last;

(b) whether under the Madras Educational Rules Good Friday and other Easter holidays are not observed in the board schools in the Ponnani taluk;

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(c) whether any other local holidays have been substituted in their place ;

(d) whether gazetted holidays—which are Bank holidays and are observed by the Post Offices also—are at least obligatory in local board schools ; and

(e) whether any representation has been received from any Christians of the Ponnani taluk complaining of the grievances referred to above and, if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to clauses (i) and (ii) of rule 77 of the Madras Education Rules giving the holidays to be allowed in elementary schools under public management including institutions under local bodies.

(e) No representation has been received.

Floods.

Replacement of the embankment at Raykutta.

2414 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA. With reference to the answer given to my question No. 2272 on 17th July 1926 as to the replacement of the embankment at Raykutta, Mangalore taluk, washed away by a flood, will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the district board does not wish to undertake the repairs required on the ground that it is for the Government in the Revenue Department to re-construct the embankment in question ;

(b) whether the embankment in question was used as a public road ;

(c) if it was not a public road, whether Government have decided to replace the embankment in question ;

(d) whether on a petition from Sebastian D'Souza, holder of the neighbouring land affected by the breach in the embankment, he was informed in 1923 by the President of the District Board of South Kanara that the board had nothing to do in the matter as the bund was reported to be a private one ;

(e) whether the said Sebastian D'Souza was obstructed by Government from filling up the breach and converting it into cultivable land ;

(f) whether the Collector has received a notice from the said Sebastian D'Souza of a suit for damages for default of Government replacing the embankment in question ; and

(g) what action Government have taken thereon ?

A.—(a) The Government have no reason to suppose that this is the case.

(b) & (c) The greater portion of the embankment is registered as path poramboke and it is reported to have been used by the public as a road.

(d) The Government have no information on this point.

(e) No. The Collector reports that Sebastian D'Souza removed the materials and the villagers complained to the Tahsildar against D'Souza's action.

(f) & (g) No. A suit notice was received for damages alleged to be due to the breach in the embankment.